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The Louisiana Technology Innovation Fund

September 4, 1998—The Louisiana Technology Innovation Fund (The Fund) was created by Act 481 of the 1997 Regular Legislative Session. It was created to provide "seed" money for up to twenty-four (24) months for innovative agency projects. The fund was created to be an incentive to accelerate the implementation of electronic government and to encourage state agencies to pursue innovative and creative approaches using technology to provide needed citizens services most cost-effectively and efficiently. The total amount of the fund equals ten million dollars ($10,000,000) with individual agency awards being limited to one million dollars ($1,000,000) for each project.

Twelve projects were received by the Technology Innovation Fund Council for consideration. Five of the projects were selected for funding. They are as follows:

C	Wildlife and Fisheries -- Point of Sale Hunting/Fishing License	$864,681
C	LSU Medical Center at NO -- Patient Information (Biometrics)	$861,850
C	Emergency Preparedness -- Skycell Satellite System	$544,000
C	Military Department -- Distance Learning Implementation	$607,000
C	Public Safety -- LA On-line Insurance Reporting	$98,888

An example of innovative technology selected to receive funding, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries proposes a new system which will provide greater fishing license

accessibility to the public. Currently fishing licenses are issued manually (in hard-copy form) with no ability to validate a license applicant's qualifications at the time of license purchase (point of sale). The new system will eliminate current manual system problems, e.g. restocking, transportation, storage of hard copy files and accounting.

The project submitted by LSU Medical Center at NO utilizes emerging high security technology (fingerprint identification) to protect health care information, as well as improve patient identification (using barcoding for patient tracking system). It represents a leap forward in security, eligibility checking, and patient tracking. Multiple problems, including user authentication and access control to clinical information, patient authentication, eligibility checking and inpatient tracking, will be solved with this unique application.

All of the projects selected clearly demonstrated innovative use of technology which dramatically will improve/re-engineer work processes or link across programs or agencies; promise substantial benefits to the public such as improved information dissemination and increased timeliness or quality of service; and promise substantial benefit to one or more agencies or programs through lower operating costs.

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